

Application No.: 09/438,392  
Amendment Dated 5 February 2004  
Reply to Office Action of 5 November 2003

*AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION*

**Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 21-31 with the following replacement paragraph:**

Selectable markers are widely used in plant transformation. Historically such markers have often been dominant genes encoding either antibiotic or herbicide resistance (Yoder and Goldsborough, 1994). Such markers include the antibiotic resistance markers *nptII*, *Ble*, *cat*, *aphIV*, *SPT*, *aacC3* and *aacC4*, the herbicide resistance markers *bar*, *EPSP*, *bxn*, *psbA*, *tfdA*, *sul* and *csr1-1*, and the selectable markers *dhfr*, *DHPS*, *AK* and *tdc*. Although such markers are highly useful, they do have some drawbacks. The antibiotics and herbicides used to select for the transformed cells generally have negative effects on proliferation and differentiation and may retard differentiation of adventitious shoots during the transformation process (Ebinuma et al., 1997). Also, some plant species are insensitive to or tolerant of these selective agents, and therefore, it is difficult to separate the transformed and untransformed cells or tissues (Ebinuma et al., 1997). Further, these genes are constitutively expressed, and there are environmental and health concerns over inserting such constitutively expressed genes in plants which are grown outside of a laboratory setting (Bryant and Leather, 1992; Gressel, 1992; Flavell et al., 1992).

**Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 16-19 with the following replacement paragraph:**

The *knotted* gene and *knotted-like* genes are a third group of genes which when overexpressed can lead to ectopic production of adventitious shoots (Chuck et al., 1996; Lincoln et al., 1994). These genes include *kn1* of maize, *KNAT1*, *KNAT2*, *kn1-like genes of maize*, *kn1-like gene of rice* and *kn1-like gene of soybean*. These genes can be used as selectable markers in the same manner as the *ipt* and *CKII* genes.